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UNCLAS VIENNA 002926

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/AGS -- VIKMANIS-KELLER

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: AUSTRIA ON IRAQ DRAFT CONSTITUTION -- VIENNA  
CONFERENCE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SUPPORT

REF: STATE 158420

1. EconPolCouns discussed reftel points with Ralph Scheide, the Austrian MFA's assistant secretary level director of Middle East and African affairs. Scheide said Austria shared the sentiments the British Presidency had issued on behalf of the EU. Scheide added that he had provided input to Foreign Minister Plassnik for a statement of support.

2. Scheide noted that Austria's planned conference on a "Dialogue of Civilizations" will be an opportunity to highlight the themes of support for Iraq's political process. The conference, which will be in Vienna November 14-16, will include Iraqi President Talabani and Afghanistan President Karzai, among others, Scheide said.  
van Voorst